

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 10, 2014

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The Honorable Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554-0001

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

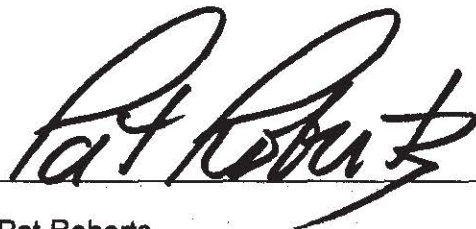
Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write to express concerns about the E-Rate modernization plan that will soon be considered by the Commission. We share the goal of providing every American student an opportunity to obtain a 21st Century education, including access to broadband, but we are concerned the plan you have put forward warrants further deliberation.

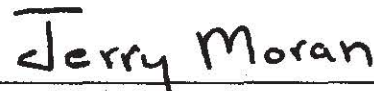
When the E-Rate modernization plan was first proposed, the Commission touted the plan as a bipartisan effort to make commonsense changes to the program for the first time in 18 years. As the public has learned more about the FCC's plan, significant bipartisan opposition to the plan has emerged. There is great benefit to simplifying the application process, transitioning the fund to support modern technology, and making certain both rural and urban schools can benefit while providing Americans the most value for their dollar. We are concerned the plan falls short on these goals.

American students deserve the tools necessary to compete in the digital economy for next-generation jobs. While modernizing the E-Rate program is critical to helping achieve that goal, the underlying policy is too important to quickly rush to a vote. We urge you to delay the vote on the E-Rate modernization plan so that the Commission can make certain the proposed changes will serve all American students in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

Sincerely,



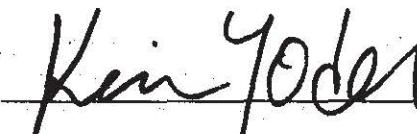
Pat Roberts  
U.S. Senate



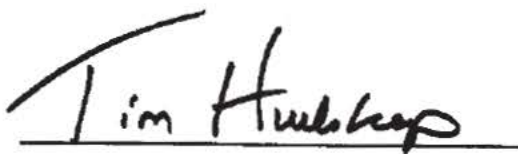
Jerry Moran  
U.S. Senate



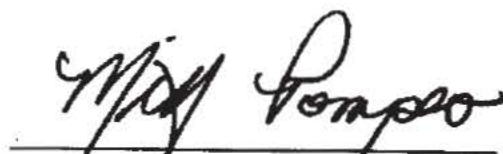
Lynn Jenkins  
U.S. House of Representatives



Kevin Yoder  
U.S. House of Representatives

Handwritten signature of Tim Huelskamp in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Tim Huelskamp  
U.S. House of Representatives

Handwritten signature of Mike Pompeo in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Mike Pompeo  
U.S. House of Representatives



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 27, 2014

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
United States Senate  
345 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Moran:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about modernizing the E-rate program. As you are aware, I am committed to ensure that the E-rate program evolves to provide support for high-speed broadband both to and within schools and libraries. In your letter, you urged the Commission to delay action on the E-Rate modernization plan so that the agency can make certain the proposed changes will serve all American students in the most efficient and effective manner. Your views are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

Over the past year, the Commission held dozens of meetings with E-rate stakeholders, received thousands of public comments and held public workshops to discuss the challenge of delivering high-speed connectivity to and within schools and libraries, and highlight successful strategies employed across the nation. A clear theme of the input we received is that access to high-capacity broadband is crucial to improving education. The Commission received overwhelming support for moving forward from numerous stakeholders, including many individual school districts and national education groups. In addition, failure to act promptly would have resulted in Wi-Fi funding being unavailable for the 2015 funding year.

The *Order* adopted by the Commission at our July Open Meeting takes significant steps to modernize the E-rate program by addressing the Wi-Fi gap in America's schools and libraries. We established an annual funding target of \$1 billion for Wi-Fi, as well as a fairer method for distributing funds so that *all* schools and libraries can benefit, including far more rural schools and libraries than in the past. Given that 40 percent of classrooms currently are not Wi-Fi-enabled, and nearly two-thirds of schools indicate that they do not have sufficient Wi-Fi capacity to meet their digital learning needs, it is critically important that we focus our limited program resources on connectivity, not only to the school or library, but also to the student or library patron. The *Order* funds support for Wi-Fi through the combination of funds already available for this purpose, and utilizes savings associated with transitioning support from non-broadband services to broadband. At the same time, the *Order* ensures that adequate funding will also be available for broadband connectivity to schools and libraries, and seeks further comment on the long-term funding needs of the program.

E-rate modernization is one of the most important issues before the Commission today. We have an opportunity to make a real, positive difference in the lives of millions of students. I

Page 2—The Honorable Jerry Moran

look forward to working with you and your colleagues toward our mutual goal of increased access to high-speed broadband in our nation's schools and libraries.

Thank you again for your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further concerns.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

August 27, 2014

The Honorable Tim Huelskamp  
U.S. House of Representatives  
129 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Huelskamp:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about modernizing the E-rate program. As you are aware, I am committed to ensure that the E-rate program evolves to provide support for high-speed broadband both to and within schools and libraries. In your letter, you urged the Commission to delay action on the E-Rate modernization plan so that the agency can make certain the proposed changes will serve all American students in the most efficient and effective manner. Your views are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 27, 2014

The Honorable Lynn Jenkins  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1027 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Jenkins:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about modernizing the E-rate program. As you are aware, I am committed to ensure that the E-rate program evolves to provide support for high-speed broadband both to and within schools and libraries. In your letter, you urged the Commission to delay action on the E-Rate modernization plan so that the agency can make certain the proposed changes will serve all American students in the most efficient and effective manner. Your views are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

August 27, 2014

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
107 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Pompeo:

Thank you for sharing your concerns about modernizing the E-rate program. As you are aware, I am committed to ensure that the E-rate program evolves to provide support for high-speed broadband both to and within schools and libraries. In your letter, you urged the Commission to delay action on the E-Rate modernization plan so that the agency can make certain the proposed changes will serve all American students in the most efficient and effective manner. Your views are very important, and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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August 27, 2014

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United States Senate  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Roberts:

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August 27, 2014

The Honorable Kevin Yoder  
U.S. House of Representatives  
215 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Yoder:

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